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TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (109-430)

DATE: April 14, 1959

FROM : SAC, MIAMI (2-165)

SUBJECT:

CARLOS PRIO SOCARRAS; ET AL
[FPM] Cuba; RA; NM
(u)

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Re Bureau letter 3/23/59 to Legat Havana.

On April 6, 1959, JOSEPH R. MEROLA, 2018 North Bay Road, Miami Beach, a jewel thief who is presently under indictment for transporting in interstate commerce guns stolen from the Canton, Ohio National Guard Armory, October 14, 1958, confidentially advised that he had returned several days previously from a business trip to Cuba, where he had been in contact directly with CARLOS PRIO SOCARRAS several times during a nine or ten day period, terminating April 4, 1959. MEROLA stated that he personally visited PRIO at PRIO's estate, "La Chata" and that he saw no evidence whatsoever indicating that PRIO is under guard or surveillance of the CASTRO government. He said that PRIO appears to have complete freedom and that neither he nor his men are restricted in their movements. MEROLA has recently volunteered information to the Miami Office relating to Cuban and other Latin matters. His information has been found to be substantially correct where it is susceptible of being crossed checked.

On April 7, 1959, MM-635-S advised that he had just returned to Miami from Cuba where he had been since March 25, 1959. MM-635-S is now an officer in the Cuban Air Force and closely associated with PEDRO LUIS DIAZ LANZ, Chief of the Cuban Air Force. MM-635-S stated that FRANK FIORINI (whose real name is FRANK ANTHONY STURGIS) disclosed to him that PRIO is under house arrest and that about one month ago PRIO had been prevented from departing Cuba. MM-635-S said that FRANK FIORINI is now a captain in the Cuban Air Force and is very closely associated with PEDRO DIAZ and other officials of the Cuban government. (u)

- 4 - Bureau (RM)
1 - New York (109-43) (Info) (RM)
1 - Miami

GED:mbb
(6)

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NOT RECORDED
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APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP (S)
DATE

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ON 3-21-95